

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199469
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:LWILLEMS:ACH
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P 072355Z AUG 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY
WHITE HOUSE 0521

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199469

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, SCUL, UR, US (WHITNEY, CRAIG) (PIPER, HAROLD)

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENTS CASE

REF: STATE 198375

1. EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS CALLED IN SOVIET
CHARGE VASEV AUGUST 7 AND URGED ALONG LINES REFTTEL THAT
SOVIET GOVERNMENT RESOLVE WHITNEY AND PIPER CASES NOW.
LUERS NOTED THAT CONTINUING DRAWN-OUT PERIOD OF SUCCESSIVE
FINES WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF HARRASSMENT AND CONTINUAL STRAIN
ON MOSCOW AMERICAN PRESS CORPS AND ON SOVIET-AMERICAN
RELATIONS, AND SUGGESTED THAT, OF SEVERAL PROBLEMS NOW
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TROUBLING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, CORRESPONDENTS' CASE
SEEMS THE MOST EASILY RESOLVABLE.

2. VASEV SEEMED UNINFORMED ABOUT THE CURRENT MOSCOW PRO-
CEEDINGS AND THE THREAT OF SUCCESSIVE FINES OVER LENGTHY
PERIOD. HE DID NOT REACT POSITIVELY AND INSISTED THE MATTER
COULD BE RESOLVED BY THE NEWSPAPERS PRINTING RETRACTIONS,

BUT AGREED BEGRUDGINGLY THAT THE SOVIET SIDE SHARES THE
AMERICAN DESIRE TO SEE THE MATTER CONCLUDED. HE OFFERED NO
ENCOURAGEMENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT MOVE TO END
THE CASE NOW IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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